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vertical brass slides, in which work as many pieces of glass, fixed in a brass case, as there are apertures in the plate, but somewhat larger, in order entirely to cover them when necessary.

The two sets of glass covers are suspended from a small brass beam, working on a pivot attached to the glass. A small ivory piston, working with a nut and screw in a glass bent tube, is attached to one set of glass covers.

The glass tube contains a column of mercury, altogether about twelve inches in length, but divided at top into two arms, over which are two vertically placed glass tubes, about ten inches in length, and bent over at top, and returning down to the bottom of, and close to, the first tubes; these tubes are filled with spirits of wine, which, when expanded by heat, acts in conjunction with the mercury (with which it is in contact) to elevate and depress the glass-covers, so as to admit fresh air in proportion to the amount required to keep the temperature of the apartments at a fixed point, which is ascertained by a scale marked on the glass plate.

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### No. XXIX.

#### ON THE NATURAL BREAKWATER OF THE PORT OF PISA.

BY MAJOR PARLBY.

April 17, 1844.

DR. ROGET, SEC. R.S. V.P. IN THE CHAIR.

THE object of the author in his communication of April 8, 1844, addressed to the Society, is to shew that

the principle of constructing floating breakwaters, for which he was last year rewarded by the Society, is correct. The following, which was continued in the communication above alluded to, is a literal translation of a description of the Port of Pisa from Claudio Rutilius, an ancient writer and member of an illustrious family at Rome :—

“The harbour is celebrated as the emporium of Pisa, and for its marine riches. The appearance of the place is remarkable, for the coast is an open one, and exposed to every wind ; there are no promontories to protect it from storms ; but a long sea-weed rises from the bottom of the sea, which defends it without injuring the vessels which pass over and through it, and yet is sufficient, by rising and falling with the waves, to abate their fury, and to prevent their rolling in from the sea in dangerous masses.

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No. XXX.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BEES.

By THE SECRETARY.

Continued May 15th, 1844.

SIR J. JOHN GUEST, BART. M.P. V.P. IN THE CHAIR.

On the evenings of the 17th April and 15th May, the secretary submitted to the Society the interesting subject of the management of bees, the chief materials for which were furnished by Mr. Milton, Mr. Sholl, and Mr. Neighbour, from whom were received various hives and models to illustrate the subject. The Society's repository also supplied several models, and their volumes much valuable and useful information.

The first accounts of bees which Mr. Milton has dis-